



THE INDEX

June 1998

MAIN STREET

The delay on the Main Street project is over. An unfortunate combination of circumstances created the problem. The plan was to replace the 70+ year old water lines under Main Street during the street construction period. The newer and deeper sewer lines were to be left in place. When construction began on phase II the contractor had to dig deeper than expected to reach a firm base. Some of the sewer laterals were damaged and there was probably some damage to the main line as well. In order to prevent the probability of having to dig up and replace the sewer line after the street was completed, the commissioners decided to halt the street project long enough to replace the sewer line now.



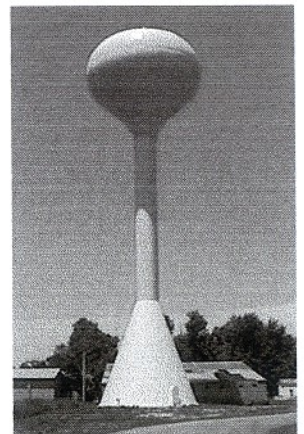
Within three weeks the Town, the engineers, MDE (Maryland Department of Environment), SHA (State Highway Administration), conferred and agreed upon a plan, drew up a contract, produced engineering plans and specs. Funding is now arranged and work began on Saturday 31 May.

Cost to the town is \$145,000. The plan includes a cost savings to SHA of \$29,000 which they have agreed to pass on to the town. In addition the Commissioners would like to thank Senator Richard Colburn for obtaining state emergency funding of \$56,000. This funding makes the project possible.

It is hoped that this project will prevent any need to dig up the new street for utility repairs for several years. The Main Street project completion date is now late August.

WATER TOWER

In order that Main Street residents do not feel alone in their inconvenience a new project will begin on June 8th. A contract to connect the water tower and extend a new and larger water main down Greenfield to main Street has been awarded to Bryan Bros (J.M. Bryan and Sons) of St. Michaels. (Yes Lois, the post office will again be in the middle)



MDE has been very understanding and has agreed to retroactively include this, the Main Street water main project, and the water tower itself in their funding package. The total cost is 2.78 million of which 1.2 mil is grant money, 1.7 is FHA loan at 4.5%. The existing rates are set to support this debt without any additional increase.

This project will accomplish several things. Improved retention time in the new tank will allow chlorine to mix and reduce the shock to those near the well heads. Those

affected know what I'm talking about. The larger reserve will provide better fire fighting ability and larger mains will give higher water flow to the fire hydrants east of Rt. 50. The new line down Howell Point road will at last provide improved water supply to residents there. When the entire project is completed fire insurance rates should drop substantially.

ZONING

The comprehensive plan is completed and the Planning Commission is about to take up the town' subdivision and zoning regulations.

SPORTSPARK



The Homerun Baker Sports Park is underway. Second year Open Space funding is in hand. Fill from Main Street is being used there for the parking lot base and for fill dirt. Grading should begin soon. Fundraisers for the 25% matching fund requirement will soon begin.

WASTEWATER

The new wastewater plant is in the midst of a funding debate due to cost over runs and increased effluent requirements. These should be worked out soon and are the sort of complication to be expected in any multi-jurisdictional project.

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Landfill tipping fees are again going up. In order to keep our rates the same we need your help. PLEASE, recycle your newspapers. There are two stations available, one on each side of Rt.50 at Quick Stop and at the Firehouse. The greatest weight and cost to you are newspapers and water. Keep lids on your cans and no wet grass or paper. Only you can control this cost.

SMOKE AND GROUNDWATER

Our sewer plant is designed to process about 144,000 gal/day. At the peak of the wet period we processed over 400,000 gal/day. During dry periods we average about 90 to 100,000 gal/day. The excess is from leaking pipes and rainwater that some homeowners sent into the sewer by connecting roof drains and cellar pumps. The green smoke you observed some time ago was an attempt to find leaks and fix these problems. It makes little sense to spend your sewer rate dollars to process rainwater. The cost to you is real and substantial and has accelerated the need for an enlarged treatment plant.

